

# Shabaskheil opens first primary school

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Christina Carde  
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**SHABASKHEIL**, Afghanistan — After years of living in fear and terror under the grip of the Taliban's regime, the villagers of Shabaskheil finally had a day of celebration Saturday with friends, family and U.S. soldiers as they commemorated the opening of their first boy's primary school.

Of the guests that attended the celebration were the village commander, the minister of education, the Bagram Air Base commander and the soldiers responsible for the school's existence — Civil Affairs Team-A, 450<sup>th</sup> CA Battalion, Riverdale, Md.

"When we first arrived in country in October, 2002, this village and most of Kapisa province had received no or little help from U.S. and coalition forces," said Staff Sgt.



*Students of the new Shabaskheil Boy's School sing a song to commemorate the school's grand opening Saturday.*

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## Rumsfeld: Attacks on Americans in Iraq likely to continue

By Kathleen T. Rhem  
*American Forces Press Service*

**WASHINGTON** — The closer coalition forces get to completely dismantling the remnants of Iraq's ousted Baath government, the "more vicious" attacks on American forces in that country are likely to become, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said today.

Since President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq, at least 79 American troops have been killed and nearly 400 others injured. The most recent American casualties came just this morning, when a soldier was killed and two others were injured "when a tractor trailer crashed into their military vehicle," according to a U.S. Central Command release.

Unfortunately, Rumsfeld contended on Sunday's NBC News "Meet the Press," this trend is likely to continue until Saddam Hussein's remaining supporters are rooted out.

"(The president) said major combat operations have ended," Rumsfeld said. "He did not say the war had ended. He did not say there would be no one else killed."

He agreed with comments by Ambassador L. Paul Bremer, American civil administrator in Iraq, that "it's going to be a rough summer." Rumsfeld said officials have even surmised attacks might increase in July, "which is an anniversary for a lot of Baathist events."

The secretary blamed the attacks on supporters of the former regime who are afraid of the American policy of "de-Baathification" and are determined to do something about it. "There's still a lot of people from the Baathist (party) and Fedayeen Saddam (death squads) ... who are there, who are disadvantaged by the fact that their regime has been thrown out and would like to get back," Rumsfeld said, adding, "But they're not going to succeed."

There is debate among the intelligence community on the level of organization within the resistance, Rumsfeld said. Clearly, he explained, there is some level of organization in regions and cities. But there's "no conviction" among intelligence experts that resistance is being coordinated on

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# World News (Compiled from CNN.com)

## Iraq story falls short, Democrats say

**WASHINGTON** — The administration's explanation of how questionable intelligence about Iraq's alleged nuclear weapons programs made it into President Bush's State of the Union address leaves numerous questions unanswered, two Democratic presidential candidates said Sunday.

CIA Director George Tenet took responsibility Friday for allowing the statement to remain in Bush's address.

In March, the International Atomic Energy Agency said intelligence that Iraq had tried to buy 500 tons of uranium oxide, or yellowcake, from Niger was based on forged documents.



*John Bartram boards up his windows Saturday in Portland, Texas.*

## Texas, Mexico on hurricane alert

**MIAMI** — A hurricane watch was issued Sunday for the Texas coast from Port O'Connor south to Brownsville as Tropical Storm Claudette moved slowly toward shore with increased sustained wind speeds near 60 mph, the National Hurricane Center reported.

The Mexican government also issued a hurricane watch from Rio San Fernando north to the U.S. border.

At 8 p.m. EDT, the National Hurricane Center described Claudette as "meandering" over the Gulf of Mexico about 330 miles (535 km) southeast of Brownsville.

Center forecasters said they expected the storm to turn westward by Monday morning and said it could make landfall early Tuesday.

## Lawmakers: Report to show al-Qaida-Saudi ties

**WASHINGTON** — A congressional report will soon reveal close ties between residents of Saudi Arabia and Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, two senior lawmakers said Sunday.

"It would be embarrassing, I think, to a lot of people there," Alabama Sen. Richard Shelby, the Republican former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said on CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer."

The classified report is the result of an investigation into the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The report, or portions of it, is expected to be declassified soon.

## U.S. intelligence plays down al-Qaida claim

**WASHINGTON** — A group calling itself an al-Qaida affiliate claimed responsibility Sunday for attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq, but a U.S. intelligence official said the claim should be taken "with a huge grain of salt."

The videotaped statement took credit for recent attacks on behalf of a previously unknown group, The Armed Islamic Movement of al-Qaida Organization — Al Fallujah Branch. It also warned Iraqis to expect "a strike that will permanently break the back of America" in the coming days.

The tape warned that the group — and not followers of ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein — is behind recent attacks that have killed 31 U.S. troops since President Bush declared an end to major combat in Iraq on May 1.

## Montserrat volcano collapses

**OLVESTON**, Montserrat — Explosions rocked Montserrat's volcano on Sunday, spewing thick clouds of ash into the air after heavy rainfall caused part of the volcano's dome to collapse.

Tree branches were snapped off from the

weight of the ash and significant damage was done to surrounding vegetation, said Richard Herd, director of the Montserrat Volcano Observatory.

"There's no one in the area right now but as a precaution we're asking people in surrounding areas to stay indoors. There's still a chance of more explosions and rock fall," said Herd.

## Bomb found in Pamplona hotel

**MADRID** — Spanish police have deactivated a powerful bomb in a Pamplona hotel they say was placed by the Basque separatist group ETA.

The hotel was filled with visitors attending the annual San Fermin Fiesta which includes the famed running of the bulls, authorities said. No one was injured.

Police evacuated the 138-room Hotel Maisonnave and nearby apartment buildings after receiving a phone call on Sunday warning them of the bomb. They found the 4 kilogram explosive device in a women's bathroom at the hotel, a government statement said.

## Sharon to urge Europe to cut ties with Arafat

**JERUSALEM** — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrived Sunday in London to meet with British Prime Minister Tony Blair as part of his campaign to press the European Union to cut ties with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Sharon's government blames Arafat for creating stumbling blocks on the road map to Mideast peace, saying he does not do enough to stop terrorist attacks by Palestinian militant groups and undercuts the leadership of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

"It is important to understand that Yasser Arafat is making every effort to undermine [Abbas]," Sharon said in an interview for Fox News.

"Arafat should be removed from any position of involvement," he added.

"The problem is some European countries that are still supporting" Arafat and militant groups financially, Sharon said.



# Aerobics: A change of pace for PT

Story and photo by  
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw  
11<sup>th</sup> Public Affairs Detachment

**BAGRAM, Afghanistan** — Running on Disney or using the equipment in the gym can be monotonous.

To break up that monotony, an hour step aerobics class is held at 0130Z Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at Dragon Palace for all servicemembers and coalition forces.

The class is usually attended by 20 to 25 servicemembers.

The first 45 minutes of the class consists of stretching, a warm-up and the workout. The last 15 minutes is used for abdominal exercises and cool down.

Instructor, Spc. Cassie Blair, promotions clerk, 433<sup>rd</sup> Personnel Support Detachment, Indianapolis, thinks it's a good way to keep servicemembers motivated.

"It's a good way to stay in shape and stay motivated — it's not easy to stay motivated when all you do is run and do pushups and situps," she said.



*An hour step aerobics class is held at 0130Z Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at Dragon Palace for all servicemembers and coalition forces.*

Blair never did aerobics until she arrived in country and picked it up so quickly that when the previous instructor left in May she asked Blair to take over.

"I figured I'd give it a try. All the participants in the class are very supportive. The people who have done (aerobics) before have been really good about teaching me new steps to keep a variety," she said. "People are a lot more receptive than I

thought they would be because of my inexperience."

According to Blair, the workout is basic with a lot of repetition and fairly low impact.

"It's more cardio than muscular and a nice addition to normal (physical training)," she said.

Blair encourages anyone to attend the class and makes one promise.

"I will smoke you — that is a promise."

## SCHOOL, from Page 1

Patrick Laporte, operations noncommissioned officer in charge, CA Team A. "Now the province has schools, wells and bridges up and running with more to come."

According to Samon, the principal of the new Shabaskheil Boy's School, the school had already existed, but was taken over by the Taliban and destroyed.

"The U.S. was responsible for erecting the first primary school here before the Taliban took over," said Samon. "We are very grateful for the patience and the intervention of the U.S. forces in helping us rebuild our school a second time."

Even though the foundation of the school was still there once the Taliban was driven out, it still needed a lot of work.

"Before we began renovations, the village children were attending school in a bombed out building with no roof, windows, doors, desks, chairs or proper flooring," said Laporte. "It took about three or four months and \$20,000 to complete renovations, but now the school children have a decent place and supplies to receive an education."

Even though the school is finally complete and ready to open, the teachers and students said more is still needed.

"On behalf of the students of Shabaskheil Boy's School we are very grateful for all of the help the U.S. has given us to rebuild our

school but there are still things that we need," said Kayou, a grade 10 student nominated to speak at the opening ceremony. "We are still short of many school supplies and a generator is needed for electricity and to keep warm during the winter months."

Despite the various needs the school still has, the people of Shabaskheil recognize they would have nothing if it wasn't for the intervention of the U.S. — a favor they said they will never forget.

"This school is not the first improvement the U.S. has made for our village or for the village of Kapisa," said Asil Khan, village commander. "For this and everything else they have done for us, their names and the name of Col. (Kurt) McNeely will always be remembered in our province with respect and honor forever."

Even after all of the time, money and effort that went into rebuilding the school, the question still remains — will the people of Shabaskheil keep up the good work once the U.S. is gone? Laporte said he believes so.

"About a year ago, the Afghan people were very dependent on the U.S. and not doing much on their own to get back on their feet," said Laporte. "In the past few months however, they have been employing their own contractors and coming out of their own pockets to contribute to schools and other projects which shows us their serious. I think they realize how important education is to their future and they will continue to progress even after we are gone."

## ATTACKS, from Page 1

a national level.

What is clear is that the remnants are targeting areas in which the coalition and Iraqi people are successful in working together, Rumsfeld said. Recent attacks have targeted a university and an Iraqi police station.

To combat this resistance, the United States launched new Operation Ivy Serpent July 12. According to CENTCOM officials, the operation is concentrated in the region between the cities of Bayji, Huwayyah and Samarra.

"Coalition members encourage the local Iraqi leadership to take the initiative and aid in the capture of subversive elements that attempt to hinder the rebuilding of Iraq," stated a CENTCOM release.

Fear that Hussein might regain power is an important factor in preventing some Iraqis from embracing progress.

"Here's a man that for 30 years was killing people — hundreds and hundreds and tens of thousands of people — Iraqi people he killed. So there is fear he might come back," Rumsfeld said.

"He isn't going to come back," he added. "Let there be no doubt about that."

In spite of this fear, many Iraqis are committed to improving their lot and their country.

"There are a great many Iraqi people ... who are signing up to be policemen, signing up to go back in the army, opening schools, opening universities, opening hospitals," the secretary said.

"And there's a lot of progress taking place on the ground," he added.

The United States is currently spending about \$4 billion per month to maintain the roughly 147,000 American troops on the ground in Iraq.

Rumsfeld said this troop level is "unlikely to go up" but could conceivably if the security situation in the country changes. "If they're needed, they will be there," he said.

## Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Silence of the Lambs." Clarice Starling, a young FBI agent, is assigned to help find a missing woman, and save her from a psychopathic killer with the help of another killer.

Tomorrow's movie will be "Hannibal."



## Local weather

### TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Tuesday
<b>Bagram:</b>	Dust H: 97F L: 61F	Haze H: 97F L: 61F
<b>Kandahar:</b>	Dust H: 106F L: 79F	Dust H: 108F L: 79F
<b>Kabul:</b>	Dust H: 95F L: 64F	Dust H: 95F L: 70F
<b>Uzbekistan:</b>	Sunny H: 99F L: 63F	Sunny H: 103F L: 64F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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# Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from ESPN.com)



Four fists at home plate, four RBI for Jason Giambi (right).

## Weaver strikes out seven, walks none

**TORONTO** — Jeff Weaver called it his best start as a Yankee.

Weaver scattered four hits over a season-high eight innings and Jason Giambi homered in his third straight game as New York beat the Toronto Blue Jays 6-2 Sunday.

"I'd like to think it was," Weaver said. "I'm surprised I had as many strikeouts as I did. Toronto has a pretty good hitting club."

Weaver (5-7) allowed just one run while striking out a season-high seven and walking none for just his second win in his last nine starts.

Yankee manager Joe Torre also said it was Weaver's best start, especially considering who he was facing.

Torre said that Weaver has had three straight quality starts and that Weaver has sought out his advice more often in the last two weeks than he ever had since being acquired from Detroit last July.

## No charges have been filed yet

**ESPN** — Washington Wizards guard Jerry Stackhouse was arrested Sunday on suspicion of assault stemming from an alleged disagreement with a real estate agent, ESPN has learned.

It is not known yet whether Stackhouse has been formally charged.

The arrest stems from a supposed dispute with the agent over rented beach property in the Atlantic Beach, N.C., area that led to Stackhouse allegedly making contact with the agent, who is female.

Stackhouse, an eight-year NBA veteran, just finished his first season with the Wizards after being acquired in a six-player trade with the Detroit Pistons that sent Richard Hamilton to Detroit. Stackhouse originally was drafted third overall in 1995 by the Philadelphia 76ers. He spent two-plus years in Philadelphia before being traded to Detroit.

## Pujols ejected after punching Bennett

**ST. LOUIS** — First, the San Diego Padres lost their starter after only 11 pitches. Then they lost to the St. Louis Cardinals, again.

Spot starter Kerry Robinson tripled and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and also drove in a run as the Cardinals won 3-1 to complete a three-game sweep Sunday.

Both benches cleared in the first inning when Albert Pujols was hit in the shoulder blade on the first pitch he saw from Adam Eaton, a day after Pujols lingered at the plate following his game-winning, two-run home run in a 9-7, 11-inning victory.



Albert Pujols' altercation with the Padres' Gary Bennett, left, led to his early exit.

## Buckeyes star reportedly allowed to take oral exams



Maurice Clarett set Ohio State freshman records with 1,237 yards rushing and 16 touchdowns last season.

**NEW YORK** — Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett received assistance to pass a class before the Fiesta Bowl, a university professor told The New York Times for a story published Sunday.

Clarett passed African-American and African Studies 101 by taking two oral exams, Paulette Pierce, an associate professor, told The Times. She said she worked directly with Clarett and administered the exams after he walked out of the course's midterm exam during the fall semester.

However, Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger told the Columbus Dispatch on Saturday night that Clarett's two recent meetings with NCAA officials had nothing to do with academics.

According to the Columbus newspaper, the NCAA instead is focusing on Clarett's finances, and possibly might include his dealings with LeBron James, the NBA's No. 1 draft pick and Clarett's friend, on its checklist.

## Pudge produces four hits, five RBI

**MONTREAL** — Dontrelle Willis won again, this time without his best stuff.

The rookie left-hander won his eighth straight decision and Ivan



## SPORTS, from Page 5

Rodriguez had four hits and drove in five runs to lead the Florida Marlins to an 11-4 win over the Montreal Expos on Sunday.

Home plate umpire Marty Foster sustained a concussion and had to be taken off on a stretcher after he was hit on the mask by a pitch in the fourth.

Willis (9-1), a late addition to the NL All-Star team, remained undefeated in 10 starts since losing on May 20 at Olympic Stadium. He allowed six hits and three runs — two earned — in five innings.

"He just didn't have his stuff today," Rodriguez said. "He got the win but I feel like he didn't have his stuff."

### Gonzalez might be amenable to trade

ESPN — Texas Rangers slugger Juan Gonzalez has a new agent. That could mean a new attitude toward approving a trade prior to the July 31 deadline.

Rangers general manager John Hart told ESPN on Sunday that eight teams have inquired about the availability of Gonzalez.

While Hart insists no formal deals have been proposed, the New York Post reported that the Yankees are interested in Gonzalez to boost a sporadic offense.

The fact that trade discussions are ongoing just two weeks after Gonzalez invoked his no-trade clause to reject a deal to Montreal might be attributed to his change in representation.

Gonzalez told The Dallas Morning News that he has fired agent Jeff Moorad and replaced him with Fernando Cuza of SFX Sports Group. The newspaper reported that Hart already has been in discussions with Cuza, who was Gonzalez's agent earlier in his career.

### Newman notches third win of season

JOLIET, Ill. — Ryan Newman's gamble paid off. Kevin Harvick's didn't.

Newman and an empty gas tank spoiled Harvick's bid for three straight Chicagoland Speedway victories, with Newman pulling away at the end to win the Tropicana 400 on Sunday.

Newman and Harvick both pitted to top off their tanks on lap 198 of the 267-lap race, hoping to stretch the fuel to the end. Newman made it, and Harvick didn't.

Newman got out of the pits first and took the lead for good on lap 210 when the drivers ahead of him all pitted under caution.

Harvick worked his way to second on lap 225 and was close behind when the green flag waved on lap 240 for a restart following the last of seven caution flags in the race.

Harvick is one of only four drivers who have won the first two races at a new track since NASCAR's modern era began in 1972, but he couldn't catch Newman's Penske Racing South Dodge.

### Kobe: 'I would never do something like that'

ESPN — Speaking publicly for the first time since he was accused of sexual assault, Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant denied the allegations and said he "would never do something like that."

"When everything comes clean, it will all be fine, you'll see," Bryant, 24, told the Los Angeles Times in a story published Sunday.

The five-time NBA All-Star would not discuss details of the case, the newspaper said.

"I shouldn't have to say anything. You know I would never do something like that," Bryant said in the brief telephone interview.

### Armstrong finishes third to take lead

L'ALPE D'HUEZ, France — Lance Armstrong took the overall leader's yellow jersey for the first time in the Tour de France after finishing third in the second mountain stage of the race Sunday.

The four-time champion showed signs that he may not be the dominant force of years past, struggling up the legendary ascent to the Alpine ski resort of L'Alpe d'Huez — a grueling climb he mastered just two years ago — in the Tour's eighth stage.

"If you'd asked me a month ago: 'Are you going to suffer like that on L'Alpe d'Huez?' I would have said, 'No way!'" Armstrong said Sunday. "It was a hard day."

He did, however, complete the stage close enough to the winner, Iban Mayo of Spain, to take the overall lead in the race.

"I'm perhaps not as strong as the other years," said Armstrong, who usually leaves rivals in his wake in the punishing mountains. "Let's hope that things get better and not worse."



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By Kevin Kilgore

## Laugh Support